

Patent
Serial No. 10/022,382
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of January 9, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated January 9, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are currently pending in the Application.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Office Action, the title is objected to for not being descriptive. A new title is submitted herewith which is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the title is now in proper form and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite due to limitations within a parenthetical content. It is respectfully submitted that that the parenthetical content objected to would be readily recognized by a person of ordinary skill in the art to create no ambiguity so this

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objection is respectfully traversed. However, to expedite consideration and allowance of the currently pending claims, Claims 1 and 5 are amended herein to remove this issue from consideration by removing the parenthetical content. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 5 are in proper form and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,668,596 to Vogel ("Vogel") in view of PCT Patent Publication No. WO 99/04555 to Jaspers ("Jaspers") in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,459,449 to Juen ("Juen").

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It appears undisputed that Vogel, although showing white balance correction, conversion to R, G, B and color correction in a color matrix operation, does not distinguish whether white balance correction occurs in an analog or digital domain nor adjustment of the color matrix operation in the digital domain depending on an analog preprocessing step.

Jaspers is cited for showing white balance in an analog domain on page 7, lines 23-24 and 29-31 (shown in FIG. 6A), yet this discussion in the Office Action is confusedly mixed with a later

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embodiment shown in Jaspers on page 8, lines 25-27 which discusses an embodiment wherein white balance occurs after analog to digital conversion as shown in Jaspers, FIG. 6B and discussed in page 8, lines 25-27 as cited in the Office Action. In Jaspers, it is clear that (emphasis provided) "FIG. 6B shows a white balance correction WBC after the RGB and smartG processing by the processor PROC." Jaspers is clear in that in the embodiment shown in FIG. 6B, "for complementary color arrays, the white balance (Fig. 6B) succeeds the smart Green processing instead of preceding it, because the Red and Blue signals are only available after subtraction of Ye-G and Cy-G." Clearly Jaspers is not cited for showing adjustment of the color matrix operation in the digital domain depending on an analog preprocessing step.

Juen is cited for showing a correction matrix employing inputs from white balance control (see, Office Action, page 5, first full paragraph), yet Juen's color correction matrix operates in a same domain as the white balance control, namely an analog domain, and accordingly, may not be properly combined with Vogel that performs color correction in a digital domain. In addition, even accepting arguendo that some combination may occur, there still is a clear lack of teaching in the prior art of (emphasis provided) "analog

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preprocessing sensor output signals to obtain analog preprocessed signals that cause a reduced amount of digital quantization errors; converting the analog preprocessed signals into digital signals; reconstructing a first basic color signal R, a second basic color signal G, and a third basic color signal B from the digital signals; and correcting the basic color signals to obtain standardized signals, the correcting step comprising multiplication of a three color signal matrix containing the first, second and third basic color signals R, G, B by a correction matrix containing RGB matrix coefficients that depend on the analog preprocessing step" as required by Claim 1 and as substantially required by Claim 5. As pointed out above, certainly Juen does not teach this cross domain correction!

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Vogel in view of Jaspers in further view of Juen does not disclose or suggest Claim 1 nor Claim 5.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 5 are patentable over Vogel in view of Jaspers in further view of Juen and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-4 and 6-9 respectively depend from one of Claims 1 and 5 and accordingly are allowable for at least

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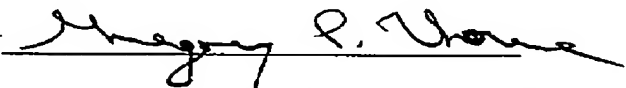
this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of said claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

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Applicant has made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Gregory L. Thorne, Reg. 39,398
Attorney for Applicant(s)
April 10, 2006

THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101